



STATE OF DELAWARE

Division for the Visually Impaired Task Force

Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2019

1 Holly Vaughn Wagner, Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee (“JLOSC”)
2 Legislative Attorney, Task Force Co-Chair and staff member, called the meeting to order
3 at 1:06 p.m. Other task force members present were Amanda McAtee, JLOSC Analyst
4 and Task Force Co-Chair, Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Director of Exceptional Children
5 Resources at the Department of Education (“DOE”) representing Susan Bunting,
6 Secretary of Education, Elisha Jenkins, Division for the Visually Impaired (“DVI”) Director,
7 Wayne Marsh, Blind Vendors Committee Chair, James Fletcher of BlindSight Delaware
8 representing Director Loretta Harper-Brown, Sonya Lawrence, representing parents of
9 children who are blind or visually impaired, Debbie Harrington, representing higher
10 Education, and Kevin McAllister, representing individuals with visual impairment and
11 blindness. A quorum was present.

12 Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for
13 introductions. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner reminded everyone that this meeting would
14 discuss the DVI task force goals, schedule of future meetings, and provide an overview
15 of structure and functionality.

16 Co-Chair McAtee, provided a recap of the JLOSC’s review process and the events that
17 led to the creation of this task force, which included Senate Resolution 8.

18 Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner explained the main goal of the task force would involve the
19 review of JLOSC tabled recommendations 2 – 29, discussion of the merits and concerns
20 of each, and reporting back to the JLOSC on task force findings by providing a final report
21 in January of 2020. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner outlined the limitations of the task force as
22 being an information gathering and advisory body, which would be limited in scope, would
23 not make any final determinations on recommendation implementation, and could not
24 authorize or require a change in any statute, policy, or practice.

25 Co-Chair McAtee provided an overview regarding the composition and roles of task force
26 members, consultants, and Division of Research staff. Co-Chair McAtee stressed that
27 time would be limited and meeting organization was imperative. She provided an
28 explanation of future meeting organization, which would separate each meeting into a
29 main topic with corresponding tabled recommendations for discussion. The task force
30 reviewed and discussed the prepared meeting schedule. Suggestions were received
31 regarding the reorganization of some tabled recommendations, that they would possibly

32 fit better with other discussions. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner acknowledged that some
33 meeting topics could overlap in discussion and the task force needed to have a starting
34 point, the outlined schedule would suffice. A recommendation was received from public
35 members in attendance that the task force should consider adding a discussion on
36 vocational rehabilitation (“VR”).

37 Co-Chair McAtee stated that future agendas would provide the tabled recommendations
38 for meeting discussion and she would be communicating with task force members,
39 consultants, and members of the public to obtain information and feedback prior to the
40 meeting. She requested that task force members come prepared to future meetings by
41 reviewing the tabled recommendations and all relevant information such as the JLOSC
42 draft and final reports of DVI.

43 Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner provided an overview of the task force rules as stated in Senate
44 Resolution 8. She also explained that Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure would
45 guide the conduct, rules, and procedure of the task force and the only task force voting
46 would occur when approving meeting minutes and the final report. There were some
47 questions received from the audience and Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner provided
48 clarification. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner also spoke about the legal standpoint regarding
49 FOIA. Task forces members received a FOIA statute reference guide. Task force
50 members, consultants, and members of the public in attendance received a brief verbal
51 walkthrough of the General Assemble website and how to access information pertaining
52 to the task force.

53 Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner reiterated the task force goals, purpose, scope, and
54 expectations of the membership. She requested that meeting documents be sent to the
55 chairs at least a day or two before the next meeting so that there was enough time to
56 review and disperse. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner solicited questions from the audience
57 before moving to the discussion of schedule finalization.

58 Co-Chair McAtee lead the discussion on the proposed meeting schedule. Clarification
59 was provided regarding the tabled recommendations listed for each meeting. Co-Chair
60 Vaughn Wagner reiterated that a starting point was needed for meeting organization and
61 there was possibility that discussions would overlap. Co-Chair McAtee stated that
62 additional proposed recommendations could result from task force discussions and any
63 additions would be included in the final report. Task force discussion on future meeting
64 schedules continued, members confirmed that the next meeting would be held on
65 Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Co-Chair McAtee stated that Doodle polls would be used
66 to schedule future meetings.

67 Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner concluded the meeting at 2:02p.

68 Respectfully prepared by:
69 Amanda McAtee and Mark Brainard, Jr., JLOSC Analysts, Joint Legislative Oversight
70 and Sunset Committee.

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72 *Access to the audio recording of this proceeding is available upon request.*